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RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

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The Daily and Weekly Commercial—NEWSPAPER DECISIONS.—1. Any one who takes a paper regularly from the Postoffice—whether addressed to his name or another's, or whether he has subscribed or not—is responsible for the payment.

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FIRST EDITION.

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

Poor House Bill Passed by the Senate.

Horse Racing Act Modified.

Common School Drawing Bill Passed.

Lively Discussion in the House Over Adjournment.

Democrats Oppose a Movement to Get Through This Spring.

The Lawrence County Members Speak for Their Constituents.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 18, 1876.

SENATE.

The Senate was called to order at 10 A. M., Lieutenant Governor Latta in the Chair.

Reports of Committees—Mr. Ermentrout—Reconmitted bill relating to costs in criminal cases. With amendments.

Act enabling camp meetings to employ a police force. As committed.

Mr. Wood—Act to provide for the appointment of commissioners to prepare new charters for cities of the second class. Affirmatively.

Act to authorize the appointment of stenographers in the courts of the State. With amendments.

Mr. Strang—Authorizing the Governor to appoint commissioners to devise a plan or plans for the government of cities of the Commonwealth. As committed.

Bills Introduced—Mr. Lamon—To correct errors in transcribing the act of Assembly entitled "An act to punish the sale and traffic in mineral water bottles and for the protection of bottlers and vendors of mineral waters," &c.

Bills Passed Finally—To provide for the erection of a poorhouse and for the support of the poor in the various counties of the Commonwealth.

Repealing the act of February 17, 1820, prohibiting horse racing, so far as the same relates to agricultural societies and other incorporated associations.

Supplement to the act relating to the settlement of public accounts, approved April 8, 1869, authorizing the transfer of accounts from one corporation to another in certain cases.

To require the teaching of drawing in all the common schools of the State.

Relating to the publication of legal advertisements in the several counties of this Commonwealth.

Bills on Second Reading—Supplement to the act relating to Orphans' Courts, approved March, 1875. Agreed to.

Joint resolution requesting the Attorney General to proceed by writ of *quowarranto* to forfeit the franchises of a corporation chartered under the title of "The State Line and Juniata Railroad Company," now known as "The Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York Railroad Company." Agreed to.

Further supplement to the act relating to Orphans' Courts, approved March 29, 1832, designed to extend the fourteenth section of said act so as to authorize investments by executors, trustees and other persons holding property in a fiduciary capacity, in bonds or certificates of debt created by any counties, cities or municipal corporations of the Commonwealth. Agreed to.

Further supplement to the act regulating elections, providing for assessors in boroughs, wards or townships divided into two or more election districts. Agreed to.

Adjourned until Monday evening at eight o'clock.

HOUSE.

The House met at 10 A. M. A large number of petitions were presented and properly referred to committees.

Mr. Stewart offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That after Friday, March 3d, no bill shall be read in place, and after Friday, March 10th, no House bill shall be reported from committees.

Quite a lengthy and animated debate ensued upon this resolution, which was participated in by Messrs. Spang, Irwin, Reighard, Lusk, Embick, Foster, Ramsey, Talley and Darby against the resolution, on the ground that the House was in no condition as regards work to, as yet, pass a resolution of this kind. The resolution was favored by Messrs. Stewart, Wolfe, Morgan, of Lawrence, and Huhn, who held that the Legislature should adjourn at an early day, and fixing the time when no bill should be read in place was the first step toward an adjournment. The debate on this question was the most spirited and interesting that has taken place in the House during the present session, and continued nearly two hours. A regular political warfare was waged between the two sides of the House, and repartee was freely indulged in. Mr. Stewart pressed his resolution in a forcible and able speech, while Mr. Morgan, of Lawrence, defended his colleague, whose motives had been impugned by the Democrats on the floor for offering the resolution. He continued his remarks for about half an hour, in his usual impressive style. He was attentively listened to throughout, and at the close of his remarks was warmly congratulated by the Republican members. Three attempts were made to stop the debate on the question by the Democrats before that consummation was effected by the sustaining of the previous question. The resolution was not agreed to, on a call of the yeas and nays, by a vote of 61 yeas to 89 nays.

Mr. Fogel submitted a resolution, which was adopted, providing for afternoon sessions of the House on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, from three to six o'clock, commencing on Tuesday, the 22d inst.

Mr. Smith, of Berks, submitted a resolution to limit speeches to ten minutes, which was laid over under the rules.

The House adjourned until Monday evening at 7:30 P. M.

Death of Charlotte Cushman.

BOSTON, February 18.—Charlotte Cushman, the distinguished actress, died in the Parker House this morning, at ten minutes past nine o'clock. Her age was fifty-nine years and seven months. She had been afflicted with cancer for a long time, but was better last week, and took a short walk on Saturday, when she caught cold, pneumonia resulting. She was quite cheerful yesterday, but a change occurred at two this morning. At seven she was unconscious.

Ohio Legislature.

COLUMBUS, February 18.—In the Senate bills were passed to forbid the administration of anesthetics by surgeons, physicians and dentists, except in the presence of witnesses; to provide that only the paid up shares of railroad stock shall be entitled to vote at meetings, and to allow an increase of the capital stock of railroad companies on a majority vote.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

Probabilities for To-day.—Falling barometer, southwest winds, warmer and partly cloudy weather and possibly rain or snow.

Williams College has voted to withdraw from the College Boating Association.

The Maine Legislature has passed a bill abolishing the death penalty and substituting imprisonment for life.

Lieutenant Governor Davis, of Mississippi, was yesterday formally impeached by the House, at the bar of the Senate. The case is set for to-day.

The steamships of the General Transatlantic Company will resume weekly trips between Havre and New York April 1, calling at Philadelphia on the way to New York.

The impeachment scheme in the Louisiana Legislature is getting weak. A majority of the Conservatives are said to oppose the impeachment of Governor Kellogg.

A dispatch from Vienna says the Danube has overflown its banks and inundated the outlying suburbs of Vienna. Telegrams from the Bavarian frontier say the Danube has risen seventeen feet. A Berlin dispatch reports that the prolonged rain has caused freshets throughout Germany, some of which are serious.

Judge Pinckney, in the Circuit Court at Baltimore, yesterday, delivered his opinion in the case of George S. Brown *vs.* the Mayor and City Councils of Baltimore, continuing the injunction restraining the city from paying out moneys appropriated by the City Council for the benefit of various benevolent institutions and educational establishments. This case is known as the "Sectarian, or charitable, appropriation case."

XLIV. CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 18, 1876.

HOUSE.

Mr. BLACKBURN offered a resolution calling on the President for information as to whether any executive offices, acts or duties have been performed since the first of March, 1869, at a distance from the seat of Government, and for how long a period at any one time, and in what part of the United States; also whether any public necessity existed therefor. Objection being made to its present consideration, the resolution was laid over for one day.

Mr. BOBBINS, of North Carolina, offered a resolution calling on the Secretary of War for information as to whether, since the 20th of March, 1868, any army officers have accepted and held any appointment in the diplomatic or consular service and were still borne on the army list, and whether any army officer, having held such an appointment, now holds his rank in the army and draws pay therefor, and, if so, by what authority. Objection being made to its present consideration, the resolution was laid over for one day.

Mr. CASON offered a resolution declaring the twenty-second of the present month, George Washington's birthday, a national holiday. Adopted.

The House then, as the special order, took up the consideration of the bill to reorganize the judiciary of the United States.

Mr. GARFIELD made argument in support of the amendment to the bill, which proposes, instead of having a Court of Appeals at Louisville, to have it sitting successively at Louisville, Cincinnati and Cleveland.

Mr. KNOTT, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, closed the discussion with a speech in favor of the bill. He appealed to members not to endanger the passage of the bill by rivalries of localities. Personally, he had nothing to do with the fixing of the places where courts were to be held; that question had been determined with almost entire unanimity by the committee, and the decision had met the approval of the Judges of the Supreme Court. As to the question between Cincinnati and Louisville, he suggested that the difference in distance was of little importance. Under the present system of travel there was but four hours difference in time between these two cities, and accommodations for the court were equal in Louisville to those of any other city. He thought the safety of the bill required the voting down of all proposed amendments, except that proposed by the committee itself, substituting New York for Albany. The latter amendment was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. KNOTT, the tenth section was amended by inserting the words "except in capital cases," so as to provide that writs of error shall not operate, in criminal cases, a stay of criminal proceedings, except in capital cases.

The next amendment voted on was that of Mr. PAYNE, to strike out the word "Louisville" and insert the words "Louisville, Cincinnati and Cleveland successively." Negatived.

The next amendment was that of Mr. LAWRENCE, to substitute Cincinnati for Louisville. Agreed to.

The amendment offered by Mr. BRADFORD, to substitute Mobile for New Orleans, was rejected.

The amendment offered by Mr. HOPKINS, to insert after the word "Philadelphia," the words "and Pittsburgh alternately," was rejected.

The amendment offered by Mr. REAGAN, to reduce the limit within which appeals are to be allowed, from $10,000 to $5,000, was rejected.

The next amendment was one offered by Mr. REAGAN, to strike out the thirteenth section, which allows the expenses of district judges while attending courts of appeals at places other than their own residences. Negatived—Yeas 120, nays 126.

The amendment offered by Mr. WELLS, to substitute Jackson for New Orleans, was rejected.

The amendment offered by Mr. HOOKER, to add a provision that the senior judge in the Court of Appeals shall not preside in any case decided by him as such district judge, was agreed to.

The amendment offered by Mr. O'BRIEN to substitute Baltimore for Richmond, was rejected.

The amendment offered by Mr. TUCKER, allowing appeals in all criminal cases, was rejected.

The amendment offered by Mr. NEW, to substitute Indianapolis for Louisville, was rejected.

The amendment offered by Mr. BAKER, to add, after the word "Louisville," the words "and Indianapolis alternately," was rejected.

The amendment offered by Mr. WELSHIRE, to substitute Little Rock for St. Louis, was rejected.

The amendment offered by Mr. CONGER, making the Court of Appeals for Eastern and Western districts of Michigan shall be taken to the court of Chicago, was agreed to.

The amendment offered by Mr. VANCE, adding to the word "Richmond" the words "and Raleigh alternately," was rejected.

The amendment offered by Mr. LAPHAM, requiring the Court of Appeals to be held at New York and Syracuse alternately, was rejected.

The amendment offered by Mr. CALDWELL, requiring the Court of Appeals to be held at Cincinnati, Louisville and Nashville alternately, was rejected.

This disposed of all the amendments that had been offered.

Pending a vote on ordering the bill to third reading the House adjourned. The session to-morrow will be for general debate only.

BABCOCK'S TRIAL.

No Evidence in Rebuttal

Argument for the Prosecution to Begin To-Day.

ST. LOUIS, February 18.—Upon the conclusion of the session of the court, last evening, the District Attorney announced that he would have some rebuttal evidence to offer this morning. Upon the opening to-day, George Gavin, the Secretary of the Board of Police Commissioners, was called for the purpose of showing the record of Magill, the letter carrier, who testified to returning two letters to Joyce. The witness did not answer and the District Attorney immediately announced that the Government would put in no rebuttal testimony, and the case was then declared closed so far as the evidence was concerned.

Judge Dillon asked if the counsel had arranged in what manner the closing argument should be made.

Judge Porter arose and said the defense had intended to raise a question of law looking to the direction of a verdict, and asked permission to address the Court. It was granted. Judge Porter spoke at considerable length, giving the grounds on which he asked the Court to direct at this stage of the trial a verdict of acquittal. The right of trial by jury he held to be a right guaranteed by the Constitution, and one to be upheld with all its force and sanction. In this case, said Judge Porter, upon the undisputed facts, we submit that there is no question but for the Court to acquit the defendant. The evidence was then passed in review very carefully and slowly, and after their review Judge Porter said: "We now ask for the acquittal of the defendant at the hands of the Court."

After a brief pause, the Court asked the defense if they were prepared to present authorities.

Judge Porter replied in the affirmative, and proceeded to read from the books various cases which he claimed were parallel in this point of law to the one under consideration.

On the reassembling of the court, Judge Dilion overruled the motion for an acquittal of the defendant at the hands of the Court. Some discussion then took place as to the order in which the arguments should be made. The rule of the Court had been for the defense to open and be followed by the prosecution, Judge Porter and Mr. Storrs thought the opening should be by the prosecution. The case rested on circumstantial evidence, and it was thought that the defense be advised as to what portion of the great mass of testimony which had been adduced, the large part of which had been rendered irrelevant since its introduction, would be relied upon by the prosecution. As the prosecution had the terrible advantage of the closing argument, they should not complain of being required to disclose their case so as to give the defense an idea as to what they would have to answer.

Judge Dillon did not think the rule a good one, and in view of the circumstances it seemed to both himself and Judge Treat but just that the prosecution be required to open, the more so that the defense might not waste time in guessing on what portion of the mass of testimony the prosecution relied. He would therefore suspend the rule as a matter of justice to the defendant.

Colonel Dyer said he had not expected this, and had not prepared his argument. He therefore asked for an adjournment until to-morrow. Judge Porter joined in the request, as the defense was equally unprepared, and Judge Dillon acquiesced and the court adjourned.

It has been decided by the counsel that Colonel Broadhead shall open the argument to-morrow morning, and that Mr. Storrs shall follow him. Judge Porter will close for the defense, and District Attorney Dyer for the prosecution. The argument will probably continue till Monday evening, when the case will be given to the jury.

Large Shipments

of Rising Sun Flour are now arriving, which will enable us to fill orders promptly.

F. W. JENKINS & BRO.

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

Probable Action of the Senate on the Bankrupt Law.

The Liberals Returning to Their First Love.

Minister Washburne Their Candidate for President.

Effort to Get a Court of Appeals for Pittsburgh.

J. S. McCalmont Would Take Judge McCandless' Chair.

Zadok Street Makes His Appeal for Suffering Animals.

Sheridan's Recommendations Respecting Mexican Border Outrages.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 18, 1876.

The Bankrupt Act.

It is intimated that the Senate Judiciary Committee will not adopt the House bill absolutely repealing the Bankrupt act, as it believed that it would not be conducive to the best interests of the country. It is probable that if the committee takes any action it will report a measure retaining the best features of the present bill and remedying its defects.

The Liberals Coming Home.

It is already known that the majority of the Liberal members in either House of Congress have indicated a determination to co-operate with the Republicans. Correspondence with the leaders of that movement shows that, with but rare exceptions, recent events, and especially the course of the Democratic party in the House, have had the effect of creating a similar disposition very generally throughout the country. These leaders now contemplate putting an arrangement by which they may return to the party with a reasonable share of recognition.

Washburne the Liberal Candidate for President.

A gentleman, recently returned from Europe, states that he was in Paris at the time of the presence of Carl Schurz in that city, and that that Liberal leader was in frequent conference with Minister Washburne. It was whispered about among prominent Americans at the French capital, that the principal object of Schurz's visit was to unite the Liberal and Republican forces on Washburne for the Presidential nomination. It is reported that Mr. Washburne was disposed to favor the proposition, and that he went so far as to state that he would not accept, unless he had undoubted assurances of the Liberal support. Such a contest would be doubtless be a close one, and that the Republican party should be thoroughly united upon its candidate. The result of the conferences with Mr. Washburne was sufficient to convince Mr. Schurz that a movement of this kind might be made a success, and his political actions after his return were shaped accordingly. In conversation with a Liberal member to-day, the opinion was expressed that some suitable person from the Liberal wing of the Republican party would receive the Vice Presidential nomination.

Mexican Border Outrages.

General Sheridan has had several conferences with Representative Schleicher, of the Committee on Outrages on the Mexican Border, in which he advocated the policy of pursuing the Mexican cattle thieves until caught, without regard to boundaries, and punishing them when caught, with an effective dose of powder and lead. He also recommended that two of the regular regiments be recruited up to the war standard, as that would be more economical than to raise two additional regiments for this service. A bill embodying these views, as to the military force for this special duty, will be introduced at an early day. Should it pass, as seems probable, the Fourth and Eighth Regiments of cavalry will be recruited up for operations along the Rio Grande.

Court of Appeals for Pittsburgh.

The defeat of Mr. Fellows' amendment to the act reorganizing the judiciary, requiring the Court of Appeals of the Third Circuit to sit in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh alternately, does not finally dispose of that question. Should the bill pass the House, the amendment will be again presented in the Senate. The Chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary says that he will not then oppose it. There were pending July 1, 1875, 480 cases in the Western District of Pennsylvania, in which appeals could be taken to the Court of Appeals. This would require citizens of Western Pennsylvania to go to Philadelphia, at a large outlay.

Western District Judgeship.

J. S. McCalmont is here, making an effort to succeed Judge McCandless. It is stated that Mr. McCalmont's first evidence of Republicanism was his voting for Grant in 1872.

Superintendent Street's Argument.

Zadok Street, Superintendent of the Allegheny Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, to-day made a lengthy statement before the House Committee on Agriculture in regard to the necessity of legislation to regulate the transportation of animals by rail. He favored making the railroads unload every twenty-four hours, or providing arrangements to feed and water them in transit.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 18, 1876.

MINISTER SCHENCK'S RESIGNATION.

There seems to be no doubt among the friends of Minister Schenck that he will soon retire from the English Mission. He has placed his resignation at the disposal of the President, who may not accept it until the Committee on Foreign Affairs shall have examined into the subject of his Emma mine transactions, or until some desirable person, to whom it will be offered, shall accept the appointment. The State Department is now making copies of the papers in the Emma case, and the committee expect to receive them by next Thursday, their regular meeting day.

SENATOR SPENCER OVER THE COALS.

A majority of the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections decided to-day to investigate the second charge made by the State of Alabama against Senator Spencer, that his election to the United States Senate was secured by corrupt means and practices. They will hear evidence upon seventeen of the specifications under this charge, but refuse to investigate the remaining thirteen, and they also decline to investigate the first charge, namely, that the body by which Spencer claims to have been elected to the Senate was not the General Assembly of Alabama, this question having already been decided in Spencer's favor in the Sykes-Spencer contest.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY COWEN TO RETIRE.

It is now certain that General Cowen will retire from the office of Assistant Secretary of the Interior. The reasons for his withdrawal from the public service are that his private interests require his undivided attention. There are no intimations as to who will succeed General Cowen.

TELEGRAPHIC PERSONALS.

Addleshaw & Warburton, manufacturing chemists, of Manchester, England, have failed. Liabilities estimated at $500,000.

Professor Max Muller consents to remain in Oxford University, in consideration of being relieved from the duty of lecturing.

Samuel H. Hubbard, an actor with the Clara Widdman New York Comedy Company, died suddenly yesterday, at Lexington, Ky.

Rev. Timothy O'Farrell, pastor of the Church of the Visitation, Brooklyn, died yesterday. Father O'Farrell had been a priest for thirty-two years, eight and a half of which were passed in Cincinnati as pastor and Professor of Greek in the Theological Seminary.

George Webster, manager of the Kentucky State lottery, was found dead in a ditch, near his residence in the suburbs of Louisville, yesterday morning. His horse and buggy were standing near. It is presumed he was drowned by being kicked by his horse into the stream, though this is not certain. There was a bruise on his head which is supposed to have come from a kick of his horse after he had gotten out of his buggy for some unknown purpose.

Mrs. William Wagner, of Walnutport, started to visit her father in Slatington, carrying an infant in her arms. When she arrived and uncovered the wraps, it was found that the child had been smothered to death.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

England.

THE COLLISION IN DOVER STRAIT—CONTRADICTORY REPORTS OF THE NUMBER LOST.

LONDON, February 18.—Of the twenty-nine persons that landed at Deal from the steamer Strathclyde, sunk by collision, many were greatly exhausted and three have since died. The crew numbered thirty and there were twenty-six passengers on board, of whom eleven are saved and are at Dover. The total number lost is put at sixteen, in addition to three before mentioned. The steamer Franconia, which ran down the Strathclyde, belongs to the Hamburg, American and West India Line, and was outward bound. She anchored in the Downs off Deal last night, and steamed eastward at daylight, coming to London to repair. The Strathclyde lies in a fair way, about two miles off Dover, her masts standing twenty feet above the water. Two ladies and three gentlemen are reported to have been picked up by a passing vessel bound for London.

LONDON, February 18.—Lists published by papers show that the Strathclyde had twenty-three passengers, and a crew numbering forty-seven. Another person has died at Dover. Of the forty known to be rescued, only six were passengers, one of whom is among the four who have since died.

An inquest on the bodies of the victims of Strathclyde disaster was opened at Deal yesterday. The Captain of the Strathclyde complained that the Franconia never attempted to assist his people; not even a rope was thrown to save the drowning.

Spain.

ALFONSO TO TAKE THE FIELD—CARLISTS WEAKENING—THE JUNTA PREPARING TO EVACUATE.

MADRID, February 18.—King Alfonso reached Vitoria yesterday. He starts today for Vergara, to assume chief command of the army. General Quesada will be appointed Chief of Staff.

In the Cortes yesterday, Senor Canovas del Castillo read a telegram, which he had received from the army operating in the North, to the effect that General Tassara had advanced to Villatueta, and that the Royalists had captured Arandigoye.

The following official report is published: The Carlists at Penaplata having killed a French captain on French territory, General Pourcet, the French commander, has sent a battery in the direction of Penaplata.

Don Carlos is stated to be in the neighborhood of Valcarlos. Shells from the Royal batteries have destroyed a church in the suburbs of Estella.

The Carlist Junta are preparing to seek refuge, with the Carlist archives, in the mountain districts of Lasamezcwas.

HENDAYE, February 18.—Persons arriving here from Tolosa, assert that General Lorea has entered the town and that Don Carlos has gone to Andoain. A telegram from St. Jean de Luz reports that Generals Moriones and Loma are threatening Andoain. Don Carlos and his generals, Periquet and Caserta, were on Thursday night at Sanesteban, to the northward of Andoain. Heavy firing near Penaplata has been heard. The Alfonsists are advancing. Don Carlos has gone to Andoain. A telegram from St. Jean de Luz reports that Generals Moriones and Loma are threatening Andoain. Don Carlos and his generals, Periquet and Caserta, were on Thursday night at Sanesteban, to the northward of Andoain. Heavy firing near Penaplata has been heard. The Alfonsists are advancing. Don Carlos has gone to Andoain. A telegram from St. Jean de Luz reports that General

The Commercial.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1876.

IN OTHER States besides our own the ball is beginning to roll. Returns from the Central and Northern counties of New York show considerable Republican gains in the recent elections for supervisors.

THE financial cloud is lifting and disappearing, out West. Loan agencies in that section report that the farmers have been prompt in payment of interest, and have paid off vast amounts of matured mortgages.

THE election of Deputies to the Lower House of the French Legislature will take place to-day, Sunday being generally chosen as the day for holding general elections in Catholic France. The whole number of Deputies to be elected is 534.

THE Maryland Legislature proposes to solve the dog question by imposing a license tax on every member of the canine species within the borders of the State, and curtailing the electoral privileges of owners who fail to pay the imposition.

THE Democratic Caucus Committee appointed to draft a finance bill and to frame a financial policy for the campaign failed, as we predicted they would, to report at the appointed time. The mentors of that party are as infirm of thought as they are insincere of purpose.

THERE is a probability that the recent discoveries at the famous Emma mine will ultimately show that the property is worth considerably more than was paid for it. How will those papers which have so industriously hounded General SCHENCK for lending his name to a "colossal swindle" feel, then?

THE initial remittance for print cloths shipped to Europe from Fall River was received two or three days ago. For the first time in the history of the country it may now be fairly claimed that our cotton manufactures have reached a position in which, quality for quality, we can sell our products even in the English markets by the side of their own goods.

THE rapid erosion of the Illinois shore has caused great alarm to the citizens of Cairo, who fear that the Mississippi may continue to work its way to the banks of the Ohio, and leave the city an island, both sides of which will be exposed to the action of the current.

"Between two streams, on one small point of land,
Wearied, uncertain and amazed they stand."

WHAT has the Senate done with the House bill for the restoration of former rates on third class mail matter? The bill passed the House some three weeks ago, and the people want to know what are the influences that prevent its passage in the Senate. The change in the law last year was made at the instigation of the leading express companies. Have they anything to do with the present hitch?

WE ARE again sending specie to the other side. The late heavy importations of securities from Europe have absorbed the floating supply of bankers' bills in London, and as there are comparatively few cotton bills now to be had in the South, the bankers, as usual in such an extremity, are compelled to ship gold. In addition, there are maturing settlements in Europe. How, in view of this inercasing outflow of gold, we shall be able to make headway in preparing for the resumption of specie payments, is a problem which the "immediatists" will, we imagine, find somewhat difficult to solve.

THE St. Louis *Republican*, in enumerating the difficulties with which the fire-eating Democrats of the South are surrounding the hopes of the Northern wing of the party, as respect the approaching Presidential contest, quotes the following passage from a late Washington letter to the New York *Tribune:*

"'I was sorely tempted to ask you a question while you were speaking to-day,' said a Northern Democrat to a Southerner in Congress. 'When the question was asked the Southern member remonstrated: 'But you would not have drawn me into such an embarrassing position?' 'Of course I would not,' was the reply, 'and the only reason is that we Northern Democrats have more consideration for you than you have for us. I could not ran in my district except by announcing such sentiments as you have uttered to-day, and whatever your own people may think of them, you have no right to cripple me by giving utterance to them in this house.'"

The *Republican* thinks that if every Democrat living South of the Potomac could read this, and summon sufficient practical sense to profit by it, "a grand hope might spring up." In other words, that paper advocates the adoption of a policy of evasion and duplicity for the accomplishment of party ends. Such hypocritic makeshifts will not, however, avail. The party is in the same desperate strait as MACBETH when he exclaimed that he had:

"Stepped in so far that, should I wade no more,
Returning were as tedious as go o'er."

THE Cincinnati *Enquirer* exultantly exclaims:

"The Democrats have carried Texas by a majority of 50,000. This is a grand increase. The school question did not enter into the canvass."

Of course not. Practically speaking, there have been no free schools in that State over which to raise the question," since the Republicans went out of office. Two colored school houses have been burned near Austin, the capital of the State, since the beginning of the year. About three weeks ago a white man was called out from his house at night and shot, in the same county. He was teacher of a colored school, and was innocent of any other offense that anybody knows of. Two white men were hanged in the same neighborhood a short time ago. One of these was only charged with being a friend to colored people and having encouraged them to come and live on his land. If such scenes occur under the very shadow of the State capital, what must the condition of affairs be in distant portions of the State? A late number of the Galveston *News* contains an account of the waylaying and killing of a man "while out with his team getting firewood;" adding: "He was the principal witness against the Ku-Klux prisoners arraigned before the United States Court in May last." The "grand increase" that so cheers the lonely heart of the *Enquirer* is very easily accounted for.

THE current number of the *Congregational Quarterly* contains an elaborate statistical statement of the numerical strength of the Congregational denomination in this country, which, in view of the fact that there is a National Congregational Advisory Council now in session in Brooklyn, possesses a certain general interest. The whole number of churches is 3,438, of which 917 have settled and 1,630 acting pastors, and 891 are without pastors. The total number of church members is 338,313. The additions last year were 29,645, while the whole number of removals was 16,805, showing a net gain of 12,840 members. The whole number of ministers in the pastoral work was 2,307, and there were 993 not in the pastoral work, besides 258 licentiates. The whole number in Sabbath schools was 401,838. Charitable contributions to the amount of $1,241,041 39 were reported by 2,416 churches; 1,020 churches, less than half the States making returns, reporting their home expenditures to be $1,388,446 74. Although the increase in the number of churches was less than usual, the increase in membership was greater than in either of the preceding five years. The number of additions by profession was greater than either of the preceding seven years. The increase of benevolent contributions was $52,876 60. The value of these statistics may be inferred from the fact that they give the name of every church of the denomination in the country, arranged by States; the name and date of ordination, and the date of settlement of every pastor, with various other interesting facts.

APPEARANCES indicate that the Rochester (New York) and State Line Railroad will be completed within six months. The Common Council of that city and the commissioners of the various towns along the line of the road have agreed to exchange the first mortgage bonds held by them for stock in the road, and a committee has been appointed to procure the passage of a legislative act authorizing the exchange of these bonds. The intention is to build the road to Salamanca, and thence to Warren in this State, where it will be connected with the lines running to this city. It is to be a first-class road in every respect, and fully equipped for freight and passenger business. The unanimity which characterized the proceedings augurs well, and there will probably be no difficulty in obtaining the legislation necessary to carry the proposed contract into effect. A gratifying and noticeable feature of the meeting was the presence of a very large number of heavy taxpayers and business men, who indorsed heartily the action of the Council and commissioners. The Rochester *Democrat* says:

"This city has long suffered from the lack of a direct connection with the coal fields of Pennsylvania, and many of our most important manufacturing interests have labored at great disadvantage by reason of the high price of bituminous coal. This has had the effect also of driving away to rival cities many manufacturing establishments which give profitable and constant employment to many persons, but which can only be maintained and run successfully by being able to purchase coal at low rates. But we need not enumerate again the advantages which will be directly received by all classes from this road when it is completed. What is necessary now is, that the interest recently developed, and now unmistakably manifested in this enterprise, should not cease, but that the work should be pressed forward and continued until the road is completed."

THE BIBLE QUESTION IN A NEW LIGHT.

A few days ago one of the faculty of the Chicago Law College, in a class lecture on the "Ordinance of 1787," made a novel point in the discussion of the educational question and the use of the Bible in the public schools, which, as reported in the Chicago *Tribune*, seems to be of considerable importance, at least as far as respects the Northwestern States. The lecturer first pointed out that the Ordinance of 1787 "for the government of the territory of the United States northwest of the River Ohio," was adopted by the Congress of the Confederation in July, while the present Constitution of the United States was not adopted until September. The ordinance therefore ante dates the Federal Constitution by two months. It provides that "Religion, morality and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged." This is one of the provisions which the ordinance declares "shall be considered as articles of compact between the original States and the people and States in the said territory, and forever remain unalterable unless by common consent." This, therefore, seems to be a compact which absolutely, according to its terms, requires the consent of all the original thirteen States and of each of the Northwestern States, and of all the people in each of the Northwestern States to repeal. At least no language that could have been adopted could have gone further in clinching it as utterly irrepealable. The lecturer argued that no amendment of the Federal Constitution, or of any State Constitution, will touch it, the acceptance by both parties, the United States and the State of Virginia, of the Ordinance of 1787 as an irrevocable compact being one of the conditions on which Virginia ceded the territory to the United States, and on which the United States permitted a State Government to be organized. By the Illinois State Constitution the ordinance is made part of that instrument, but unlike most features in the Constitution, which are inserted by choice and may be changed, this is inserted by compact and could not be omitted. The religion meant was, according to the lecturer's interpretation of the fixed rules of legal construction, the Protestant form of Christianity, including the King JAMES version of the Scriptures, being the broad and tolerant form of Christianity, without distinction of sect or creed, which the courts and jurists hold to be a part of the common law. We quote:

"It has been so interpreted by Judge Story in the celebrated Girard College case and by the bench generally wherever the case had arisen. All this amounted to a compact between the State Governments northwest of the Ohio should forever encourage Orthodox Protestant Christianity as essential to the well-being of the State and people, and as one of the objects for which schools and the means of education were to be provided. The use of the King James version of the Bible in the public schools, therefore, to be read without note or comment, as a religious and educational exercise, was not an innovation or usurpation effected by the controlling or partisan influence of any sect or party, but was the spontaneous and instinctive act of the people as a whole, in carrying out the compact contained in the Ordinance of 1787, that schools should forever encourage, not merely knowledge, nor even morality, but religion, as our fathers used the word, meaning Protestant and Puritan Christianity, the historical faith of that date."

If this view of the matter be the correct one, it follows that the use of the Bible in the public schools, the plain King JAMES version is, by the Ordinance of 1787, required as a thing necessary to good government, and is a usage which cannot be repealed without a violation of the Constitution, until such repeal shall be sanctioned by all the original thirteen States, and by all the people of the several States formed out of the territory embraced in that remarkable ordinance.

PERSONAL.

Who is he? A Calcutta correspondent, in a recent letter descriptive of the pomp and splendor of the ceremonial of the Grand Chapter of the Star of India, says that among the officers of the fleet and army was an American Colonel, who prints on his visiting card that he is "inspecting the world."

An Irishman living in Hadley, Mass., had a daughter bitten by a reputed rabid dog, and, as a prevention, had the dog killed, took out his liver and cooked it and made his daughter eat it. The girl has survived the feast, and the liver thus far manifests no fear of either water or whisky. Parties interested will make note of this new remedy.

It certainly was an Irish ghost. At a spiritualistic seance in New York, a spirit attacked the unbelievers. It said: "Do not try to annihilate, lest you be annihilated. You annihilated Jesus, but you can't annihilate us any more. We have come back, and we will be heard if we die in the attempt." And a very good bull it is too, say that if it was only a dead man.

When the last installment of Chinese boys sent to this country to be educated arrived in San Francisco, their baggage, consisting of ninety trunks, was held for duties by the Collector at that port. Mr. Wing, the Chinese Commissioner, had an interview with Secretary Bristow, yesterday, on the subject, and a telegram was promptly sent ordering the Collector to set the baggage free and forward it to Hartford.

An Italian sculptor has now in hand a gigantic bust of Washington, intended to adorn the Centennial building, which he supposes to be a mile long with a tower one thousand feet high! The Father of his Country is "sculped" in the act of giving the Constitution of the United States. The idea of the hand alone is to be nine inches long. At this ratio, the length of the arm will be fifteen feet, the breast twelve feet wide, and the head between two and three feet in diameter. He will look as if he were the Great Grand Father of his Country.

The St. Louis correspondent of the Chicago *Tribune* writes of the United States District Attorney who is conducting the whisky ring prosecutions in the former city as follows: "Dyer is a regular country lawyer, with voice and gesture calculated to make the rustic justice quail in his boots, but entirely devoid of that pleasing eloquence which persuades the cultured jurists. He is subjected to the severest ridicule quite frequently on account of his lack of general reading. To-day Mr. Storrs, in his argument, was ridiculing the effort of the Government to show Babcock's complicity in the conspiracy by proving the authenticity of the dispatches, and said there was not a parallel case to it, except that of Bardeli against Lord Byron, where a document, purporting to be a book in hand, very gravely asked what page. Storrs had a Riverside edition of Dickens at hand, and at once answered, 'Page 118.'"

Foreign Commerce of the United States.

The Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce has made a compilation showing the foreign commerce of the port of New York as compared with the aggregate of all other ports of the United States for the year ending June 30, 1875. The following is a recapitulation:

FOREIGN MERCHANDISE.	Port of New York.	Aggregate other ports of the U.S.	Total United States.
Imported.....	$368,647,580	$185,298,573	$552,906,153
Re-exported.....	15,502,056	6,931,568	22,433,624
Consumed on hand.....	$353,135,524	$178,337,005	$531,472,529
DOMESTIC PRODUCE.			
Exported.....	$329,301,913	$329,489,378	$658,691,291
Excess of foreign imports over domestic exports...	$ 39,453,607		
Excess of domestic exports over foreign imports....		$141,220,635	$101,766,138
Total foreign commerce of the port of New York.....			$713,341,569
Total foreign commerce of all other port of the United States.....			521,689,519
Total foreign commerce of the United States, 1874-75.....			$1,235,031,088
Total foreign commerce of the United States, 1873-74.....			1,324,104,706
Decrease during the year 1874-75.....			$ 89,073,618
Total foreign commerce of the United States, 1874-75.....			$1,235,031,088
Total foreign commerce of the United States, 1873-74.....			1,324,104,706
Total foreign commerce of the United States, 1872-73.....			1,340,899,221
Total foreign commerce of the United States, 1871-72.....			1,212,328,233
Total foreign commerce of the United States, 1870-71.....			1,132,472,256
Total foreign commerce of the United States, 1869-70.....			991,898,889

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

"— The procession of our fate, howe'er
Sad or disturbed, is ordered by a Being
Of infinite benevolence and power,
Whose everlasting purposes embrace
All accidents, converting them to good."

Corruption Winslow not more than honesty.

The New York Curling Club has curled up and died.

Don't try to get rich too fast: remember Tweed and Win slow.

To the man with a positive mother-in-law all things are relative.

National Democratic politics knuckle around the nucleus of Jeff. Davis.

Maine is going to abolish capital punishment. No noose is good news.

The Pacific coast will open an industrial exhibition at San Francisco next August.

Winslow should plead not insanity, but idiocy. Such a fatuous fiasco is not on record.

Good. The New York courts have decided that swearing falsely to a savings bank statement is perjury.

Russia has this year added 54,000 rubles, about 40,000 dollars, to its consular salaries. We have cut ours down.

The grand aggregate militia force of the United States is 89,963. The organized Pennsylvania guard is 10,538.

The New York *Tribune* would almost pass for a Republican paper now, if it only had a little more lime in its bones.

Tennessee editors are appreciated. One of them has just been presented with a pig having two tongues and eight legs.

A California geologist has counted sixty-five glaciers in the mountains of that State. Yosemite was dug out by these agencies.

A cabbage-headed English magistrate has just sent a starving man to jail for six weeks for picking up an unsound cabbage.

"In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: Heaven also hath set the one over against the other."

A Rhode Island fisherman recently caught ten thousand pounds of codfish in four days. He must have been a regular old salt.

The sale of "concessions" to sell food and drink and other things on the Centennial grounds has thus far amounted to $450,000.

Nantucket, Mass., blubbers because in its palmy days she owned 115 whaling vessels at one time, while now she has not a single ship.

The New York Legislature has created a railroad commission to have the supervision of all the steam and street railroads in the State.]

Contrary to the accepted theory that no adult can have the canker-rash and scarlet fever, a Massachusetts man nearly forty is sick with it.

A young Illinois lady is training a class of theological students in Boston. Large numbers of young men are embracing the opportunity.

The public schools of New York taught 232,440 children last year. In schools of a charitable character 28,000 more children were instructed.

The farmers of Richland county, Wisconsin, have built a wooden railway, sixteen miles long, costing only three thousand dollars a mile.

Jersey City has a population of 116,000, and five per cent. of the population are paupers, or one in every twenty. This is an astounding exhibit.

The *Woman's Journal* does not believe Mrs. Tupper, the Iowa forgeress, to be insane. Why is it that these angels never have any charity for each other?

A new cause of lunacy. A commissioner of charity in one of the Southern States sends cases in the insane asylum to escape the maddening pressure for help.

Nine counties in Minnesota destroyed 56,336 bushels of locust larvæ last summer, at a cost of $87,505 in bounties paid. The whole movement was successful.

The subject of establishing a Dry Goods Exchange is attracting attention in that very important branch of trade in New York. The *Bulletin* considers it a goods idea.

Massachusetts Crispins are beginning to understand that under the present prices for goods they are doing better than their employers, and hence they have concluded o peg on.

Barbarous. English railroad engineers have no protection from the inclemency of the weather, the result of it being that it is very rarely an engine driver reaches the age of forty.

Very rich discoveries of tellieuride and free gold ores have just been made at Colorado Springs, Colorado, assaying two hundred and seventy-three dollars gold and diver per ton.

The New York brewing interest promises to be among the first industries to experience the benefits of the Centennial. Incidentally the benefit must extend to hops, barley and malt.

Count Schouvaloff, Russian Ambassador to England, who was on the train which recently met with such a terrible accident in that country, came very near being shoveled off into eternity.

Thoughtful. The Centennial Kindergarten Committee propose to establish a nursery park, where, amid flowers, bushes and trees, and under the supervision of a matron, children may be sent to play.

The space allotted to Georgia in the Centennial buildings is to be declared forfeited, that State having taken no steps looking to representation. Alabama will probably fare in a similar manner. Bourbonism has done it.

Harper & Brothers' Periodicals.

Undoubtedly the best known American periodicals are those published by Harper & Brothers, New York. These are the *Magazine*, of which the first number was published in June, 1850, and the fiftieth half-yearly volume in May, 1875, the index volume containing 579 pages imperial octavo. The *Weekly* was begun in 1857, and the first number of the *Bazar* appeared in 1868. The results at the beginning of the present centennial year have been volume 19 of *Harper's Weekly*, containing nearly 1,100 pages, newspaper quarto, with hundreds of fine engravings; of the eighth volume of *Harper's Bazar*, 840 pages, also profusely illustrated, and of the 50th and 51st volumes of *Harper's Magazine*, containing 1,884 pages imperial octavo, with a host of engravings. Their circulation isimmense, because these works are good as well as low priced. Of the magazine 130,000 copies are sold every month, which, averaging eight to each copy gives a total of over one million readers. The publisher's expenditure on this periodical alone is nearly $70,000 per annum. *Harper's Weekly* has a circulation almost four times larger than that of any similar publication, and *Harper's Bazar* also is to be seen everywhere—indeed, it has become almost a necessity to hundreds of thousands throughout this vast country.

Each of these periodicals has a character and mission of its own. The illustrations are always good, and there are from four to five hundred in each volume. No department of literature is neglected, and fiction, poetry and humor are to be found side by side with history, travel and sound criticism. In the two volumes for 1875 the following, among other distinguished writers, appear as contributors: Longtellow, Professor Rau, Emilio Castelar, William Black, James E. Field's, Charles Nordhoff, Julian Hawthorne, S. S. Cox, Joaquin Miller, James Parton, William G. Sumner, S. S. Conant, Justin McCarthy, William H. Rideing, R. H. Stoddard, J. W. De Forest, Bret Harte and William A. Seaver. As for female writers, they abound in this work, and could not be spared. Among them are Jean Ingelow, Miss Thackeray, Helen S. Conant, Virginia Townsend, Celia Thaxter, Ella Rodman Church, Constance Fenimore Woolson, Elizabeth Stoddard, Mary B. Dodge and others. In *Harper's Magazine* for the present month is given the first portion of "Daniel Deronda," the new serial story by George Eliot, which is to run through the next seven months. It occupies thirty-one pages, without intruding on the general contents of the magazine.

Harper's Weekly is more of a magazine than a newspaper, though it contains intelligence on a great variety of subjects—political, historical, literary and scientific. It is largely literary, and always has a good serial or two running from week to it. That it is also powerfully political was shown very unmistakably on some occasions. The opposition which he met from the pen of G. W. Curtis and the satirical drawings of Thomas Nast largely contributed to the defeat of Mr. Greeley as a Presidential candidate in the autumn of 1872, and the same pencil and pen may be said to have brought up the "Tammany Ring" in New York, with graphic exposures of W. M. Tweed and his associates—literally the Manhattan Ali Baba and his Forty Thieves.

Harper's Bazar, admirably conducted by Miss Mary L. Booth, a highly educated lady, who has more than her sex's share of good sense and tact, is a journal for the household. Its literary tone is high—its literary merits are many. It was started with the intention of supersoding the "ladies' magazines" of the time, with the fashions six or seven weeks after date and their namby-pamby literature. It has largely done this, and is, in fact, an illustrated weekly for thesofter sex throughout the whole Union. There now are appearing two serials in it—"The two Destinies, a Romance," by Wilkie Collins, and "As Long as She Lived," a story by F. W. Robinson.

PENNSYLVANIA OIL REGION.

Letter from Petrolia—New Impetus Given to Development—New Wells and Wells Drilling—Opposition to the Proposed Tax on Derricks, Tanks, Etc.—That Small-Pox Case—Ball of the Petrolia Hose Company.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

PETROLIA, February 16, 1876.

The recent improved condition in the oil market has given considerable impetus to developments. In the vicinity of St. Joe a number of rigs are going up, on the Peter Duffy, Thompson, Esterling, Gible and Gould farms; but as the territory has been thoroughly tested, no apprehensions need be entertained of any very large wells there.

On the Campbell farm, Hoffman & Bussell are building a new rig in the vicinity of their new well, which is doing to-day about seventy-five barrels.

The James & Harlan well, on this farm, has struck the sand, which is of good quality, and from present indications the well will do sixty barrels a day.

Considerable interest has been felt in a test well, drilling by Boughton & Co., on the Hindman farm, which would open up considerable new territory. The prospects are very good for a dry hole, or at best a very small pumping well.

The Story well, on the Mortimer farm, is in the third sand, and will be good for only fifteen or twenty barrels.

Brooks & Mercer's new well on the McClymans farm, is a dry hole. They have drilled almost through the sand.

James McKay's new well, on the Adams farm, has been tubed and has proved to be much smaller than was anticipated. It is doing only about twenty barrels. On Friday it commenced flowing oil and gas, and caused considerable alarm, as a candle was burning at the time on the large only a short distance from the discharge pipe. One of the drillers, with much presence of mind, removed the candle and thus averted what might have proved a serious accident.

The producers are unanimous in their condemnation of bill 183, "An act to impose a tax on derricks, oil tanks, etc., for county purposes." They contend that oil lands are assessed, with the improvements upon them, including derricks, engines and oil tanks, at as near their actual valuation as any other property. As one producer to-day expressed himself to your correspondent, the Legislature might just as well tax the wheat the farmer has harvested and stored in the barn after taxing it when growing in the fields. If any of the members of the Legislature have any doubt as to the feeling prevalent among the producers on the subject, it would be allayed at once by a conversation with them. They feel, however, that there are some gentlemen in the House and Senate who will not be unmindful that producers have rights which legislators are bound to respect.

The small-pox case in the house of ill-fame on Argyle street is convalescent. The bedding, clothing and other infected articles were burned, and it would not have been a bad idea to have subjected the house itself to the same process of purification. No other case of small-pox has made its appearance here. As vaccination was very generally resorted to, it is pretty evident that it is the best preventive agent.

The Petrolia Hose Company gave a grand ball at the Opera House, last evening, which was the most successful party of the season. The company is one of the best in the oil regions as regards the material of the membership and its thorough efficiency. DOT.

BOSTON, MASS.

Gossip from the Hub—A Tidbit of Scandal about Winslow and His Sister-in-Law—Art Matters—Paine's New Symphony—Things Theatrical.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

BOSTON, February 14, 1876.

The Hub revolves monotonously still, to the groan of hard times, and yet we have spirit enough for a bit of gossip. Spirit enough, also, to send "blessings without number" in the wake of the departed Winslow, and refresh ourselves in private circles with a scandal with regard to his sister-in-law and himself, which may or may not have a grain of truth in it; but, as Mrs. Tattlewell says, "it isn't slander, for a little wickedness, more or less, makes no difference to so great a rascal, and it makes it so much more interesting for the public."

A propos of Winslow, the Methodist ministers held a formal council, the other day, and "suspended" him from membership—while he was probably promenading about London, with that "repose of soul" which characterizes the great.

The verdict of "murder in the first degree," in the trial of Piper for the belfry murder, was somewhat surprising generally; there are some disbelievers in the guilty, there the ground of lack of motive, but there are also hints of previous manifestations by Piper of a "Pomeroy mania."

We have a little something to enliven us besides "irregularities" and murders. We have had an art club exhibition, which, if it contained no remarkable pictures, as in some former years, was uniformly excellent. Ernest Longfellow, the Inness, father and son, and William M. Hunt were largely represented. Among the smaller bits, which one was tempted to carry away, was a perfect little poem of a picture—the Jungfraw—by the poet-artist Cranch, who, with his daughter, also has a fine studio and occupies himself entirely with painting; a pair of birds carved in wood so naturally, that, until you touch them, you cannot be convinced that they are not real birds, the work of Alexander Pope, Jr., a young man, who is said to be the best artist of the kind in this country; and a cluster of flowers by Mrs. Caroline Thorp. This lady is the younger daughter of Hawthorn, a graceful and interesting blonde, with a slight resemblance to her father in feature, but none in temperament. Her husband is a poet of considerable talent, and assistant editor of the *Atlantic Monthly*.

The most talked of event, in musical circles, is the bringing out of Mr. J. K. Paine's symphony by the Thomas Orchestra. It was very enthusiastically received, and Mr. Paine was called before the audience at the close. It is considered to be proved that a good thing, musically, *can* come out of America. We have a promise of Titiens in opera, but, alas! we have been often deceived to put our trust in managers.

The theaters are drawing good audiences, nightly, in spite of dull times and the lack of special attractions; we have to go, drink and be merry, or we should die of wear and worry, in these days.

We are to have Neal as Dundreary in "Our American Cousin," at the Boston Theater, all this week, and Miss Maud Granger in James Alberry's "Two Roses," at the Globe. The rest of the theaters and music clubs which are opening up, like mushrooms, are creating a sensation and achieving great successes in this good old Puritan Commonwealth. Miss Kellogg has repeated its performance of School, at the Globe Theater, on Wednesday, and the occasion was graced by the *creme de la creme* of Boston society.

We are having, to-day, a foretaste of "balmy spring, ethereal mildness," in the shape of an east wind that chills to the bone, and a persistent drizzling rain. We think with regret of the "Smoky City," where east winds never blow.

BETSEY BARKER.

OHIO NEWS.

The Mt. Vernon City Council and Gas Company, are wrangling over the high price of gas.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Knaul, of Zanesville, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on the 14th inst.

A tramp printer stole a Warren editor's scissors and only coat, the other day, and as a consequence one issue of the paper was missed.

Near Berlin, Holmes county, on Sunday, 13th inst., Henry Mosebach, a German, beat his wife to death with an ax handle. He was found secreted in the woods, and taken to jail at Millersburg.

The Sandusky *Register* reports a small forgery case and a runaway match in that city. One Pat. Shannon forged an order for ten dollars on Pat. Holleran, which was paid, and then ran away with Holleran's daughter. Holleran was hotter'n after his money and his daughter at last accounts.

The *Blade* says that a lineal descendent of Major General Nathaniel Greene, of Revolutionary fame, who is also the step-granddaughter of Enoch Crosby, well-known in the Revolution as "Harvey Birch, the Rebel Spy," is a resident of Toledo. She is an old lady and retains quite a vivid recollection of General Greene.

POLITICAL.

General.

Senator Bruce's speech is generally regarded among the colored politicians as calculated to injure the colored race.

The Minneapolis *Mail*, commenting on Jeff. Davis' letter, says Ben Hill said the whole thing much more ingeniously and even more venomously.

The Democrats of the House of Representatives are chided by the Richmond *Whig* (Democrat), which laments the sluggish and unproductive course of the promised exposures of Republican misdeeds. It pathetically declares that "all the credit of exposing corruption that will be gained will be what the Administration can get by obtaining now by its presistent pursuit and persecution of the whisky rings," and sadly concludes that the Democrats when "only half in power," have promised too much.

A man who was very drunk strolled into a revival meeting at Amesbury, Mass., the other night, and after a pretty severe coaxing, went forward to the "anxious seat." Having convinced him that he was a great sinner, the minister said: "You are a drinking man, are you not?" "Yes," said the anxious man, "and I swear, too, and that isn't the worst, either, I sell liquor!" "But," said the dominie, "you can't sell liquor and still be a Christian." "Well," said the fellow, "I know it; but I have a little stock of stuff on hand which I must get rid of. Think I can do it by the 15th, and then, can't I be a Christian, just the same?"

A BIG TRANSACTION.

A Mail Contractor to be Paid for Four Years' Service—The Sum Involved.

[From the Uniontown Genius of Liberty.]

A most extraordinary business transaction will take place in Uniontown about the first of July, in consummation of a contract for carrying the United States mails four years between this place, Brownsville and Little Washington. The four-years' contract expires July 1, and bids have already been sent to Washington for one year following that date, the period having been changed from four years to one, no doubt for some wise purpose. At the expiration of the present contract the gentleman whose line of hacks now carries the mail between the points mentioned, to the extent of eighty-four miles a day, will be entitled to the remuneration covering the whole four years last past. This gentleman is Mr. Alfred Newlon, the proprietor of the aforementioned hackline. At the time the contract was awarded, four years ago, there was very lively competition between hack lines, and the bids were unusually low, because the prestige of the "mail line" is always an advantage, and because the mail line pays no toll on the National Road, a consideration of about twelve hundred dollars a year. Therefore, the lowest bid put in was somewhat lower than it might have been if there had been no competition between hack lines; and in this case it was one cent for the four years covered by the contract, or one-fourth of a cent per year. This is of course a considerable reduction of the amount formerly paid by the Government for carrying the mails between the points mentioned, which was at one time four thousand dollars per year. The best thing about the present contract is that Mr. Newlon will have to receive his money, and receipt for it, as there is a law prohibiting the carrying of the United States mails for nothing, and this will be the important part to be transacted about the first of July. The Government would willingly have paid the amount in quarterly or yearly installments, but the patriotic contractor preferred to let it lie in the Treasury, for the benefit of the country, until the expiration of four years, when he will receive it all in one payment.

FIENDISHNESS.

Attempt to Destroy a Church Filled with People in Cumberland County, Pa.

[From the Mechanicsburg Independent Journal.]

One of the most dastardly acts, and, we think, equaling the explosion at Carlisle, was attempted at Kutz's church last Saturday night. Kutz's church is located in Middlesex township, about six miles west of this place, on the Poorhouse road, and about one and one-half miles north of Middlesex. Services were being held in this church on Saturday evening, during the progress of which a dense smoke filled the room. Investigations were immediately made, and large bundles of straw were discovered underneath the floor bursting into flames. A few minutes longer, and a house full of people would have been enveloped in flames, and what the probable consequence would have been our readers can imagine. The fire was quickly extinguished, and all felt thankful for their escape from danger. When the fire was first discovered, a horse attached to a buggy was driven furiously away from the church in the direction of Carlisle. What the idea was in these fiends attempting to destroy a whole church full of people it would be impossible to imagine, for surely there are no persons so hard-hearted and wicked that could gloat over and enjoy a scene like this. The parties will probably never be known, unless, conscience-stricken, they would be forced to confess.

Insurance companies look forward now to a great improvement in the business during the present year.

Amelioration and Cure.

Amelioration of the symptoms of a disease is, of course, one desirable object of medication, and there are, no doubt, palatives which possess considerable medical efficacy. The temporary disappearance of the indicia of a disease, in too many instances, however, deludes the sick into a belief that they are cured. Many of those who have borne grateful testimony to the permanent remedial effects of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, in cases of liver disorder, chronic constipation, intermittent and remittent fevers, urinary and rheumatic ailments, have also recorded the fact that the temporary relief occasionally afforded by those medicines which they tried before using the great restorative inspired hopes which were speedily dissipated by the return of the malady. The Bitters is only relieve, but if persistently and regularly taken, cure the maladies to which they are adapted.

NATIONAL INSURANCE CO.,
43 South Diamond St., Allegheny City.
W. W. MARTIN.....President.
JAMES E. STEVENSON.....Secretary.

Pittsburgh Bank for Savings,
NO. 61 FOURTH AVENUE, PITTSBURGH.
Assets January 1, 1873 - $778,351 56.
CHARTERED IN 1863.
Open daily from 9 o'clock A. M. to 3 P. M., and on SATURDAY EVENINGS, from May 1st to November 1st, 7 to 8 o'clock. Deposits made on or before July 1st, 6 to 8 o'clock. Interest paid at the rate of SIX PER CENT. per annum, computed from the 1st and 15th of each month, and is not withdrawn is compounded semi-annually, on the 1st of January and July. Book of By-Laws, &c., furnished on application.
BOARD OF MANAGERS.
GEO. A. BERRY, Vice President.
JOHN SCOTT, JAS. PARK, JR., Vice President.
A. Bradley, J. L. Graham, A. S. Bell, Wm. S. Haslett, Jr., Wm. Thaw, Jr., Wm. Phillips, Jr., Joshua Rhodes, S. H. Hartman, Robert C. Schmertz, Christopher Zug.
JOHN H. Bailey, Solicitor.

PROPOSALS.

PROPOSALS FOR IRON.

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, ILL., January 29, 1876.

SEALED PROPOSALS ARE INVITED to furnish, delivered at this Arsenal, the following:

50,000 lbs. of 1½-inch Wrought Iron I Beams.
85,000 lbs. of 1-inch Wrought Iron I Beams.
162,000 lbs. of 4-inch Wrought Iron I Beams.
50,000 lbs. of T Iron, 2½-inch x 2½-inch x ¼-inch.
56,000 lbs. of Round Iron from ¾-inch to ¼-inch diameter.
38,000 lbs. of Flat and Square Bar Iron, various sizes.

The name or place of manufacture of the Iron must be stated. The Iron will be subject to inspection and test, and will be required to possess the stiffness and strength usual to the best Iron made by the manufacturer.

The Flat and Round Iron is required to be of best quality, highly refined iron; to give an ultimate tensile strength of 50,000 lbs. per square inch, and to bear a tensile strain of 2,000 pounds per square inch without permanent set, will be thoroughly tested as above, and by bending, welding, &c.

Bids for any other than the high grade of Iron required will not be considered.

Bids must be endorsed "Proposals for Iron," and will be opened at 10 A. M., MARCH 10, 1876.

The right to reject any and all bids not deemed satisfactory is reserved.

For full bill of Iron, specifications for quality and other information, apply at this office.

D. W. FLAGLER, Major of Ordnance.

Proposals for Building a Dam on the Great Kanawha River, W. Va

U. S. ENGINEERS' OFFICE,
BALTIMORE, MD., February 12, 1876.

PROPOSALS FOR BUILDING A DAM on the Great Kanawha river, West Va., near Brownstown, will be received until noon of MARCH 6, 1876, and opened immediately thereafter. Blank forms, specifications, and any desired information can be had on application at this office.

WM. P. CRAIGHILL, Major of Engineers.

LEGAL.

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA, COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY, ss.

In the Court of Common Pleas No. 1. No. 594 Dec. T., 1875.

In the matter of the voluntary assignment of JOS. McNEILLY to JAS. M. McELROY.

And now, February 5, 1876, account and sales list of Assignee presented to Court, upon consideration of the same it is ordered to be filed and confirmed Nisi, unless exceptions be filed on the 20TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1876, if no exceptions be filed thereto, notice of said filing to be published in the Legal Journal and Daily Commercial twice a week until confirmation absolute.

By the Court. From the record.

Attest: B. F. KENNEDY, Prothonotary.

IN THE MATTER OF THE VOLUNTARY assignment of Hart, Caughey & Co. to D. T. Watson. In Common Pleas, No. 1, No. 537 June Term, 1875.

And now, February 12, 1876, first and partial account of D. T. Watson, Assignee of the firm of Hart, Caughey & Co., and William M. Hart and C. P. Caughey, proved in Court, and it appearing that the same is ordered to be filed and confirmed absolute, and the Prothonotary is directed to give notice of the same by publication in the Pittsburgh Commercial and Evening Telegraph for the next three weeks, and exceptions on or before WEDNESDAY, March 8, A. D. 1876, exceptions be filed thereto, the same will be confirmed absolutely.

By the Court.

Attest: B. F. KENNEDY, Prothonotary.

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE.—LETTERS of Testamentary on the estate of the undersigned upon the will of JULIUS DROCOURT, deceased, late of Sewickley borough, Allegheny county, Pa., all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment, and those having claims against said estate will present the same for settlement to

JULIUS DROCOURT, Executor.
26 and 28 Sixth street, Pittsburgh.
Pittsburgh, January 24, 1876.

NEW RELIGIOUS PAPER.
THE
PRESBYTERIAN JOURNAL.
$1 50 A YEAR IN ADVANCE.
NO EXTRA CHARGE FOR POSTAGE.
ALFRED NEVIN, D.D., LL.D., } Editors.
REV. J. FORD SUTTON, }
This cheapest of all religious papers is published in unexceptionable style, and is filled, as by its title it uses no out ide inducements to secure support. Its *premiums* are found in its pages. It excludes all *Medical* and other unworthy advertisements—also, all dry discussions. No effort is spared to make it a *pure*, safe, attractive and instructive journal for THE FAMILY.
While it is a Denominational paper, it embraces in its outl

FINANCE AND TRADE.

FRIDAY EVENING, February 18, 1876.

The loan market is well supplied with funds, and borrowers in good standing have it all their own way. Yet it is strange to notice the judgment of leaders in the matter of the standing of borrowers. Paper that went some years ago as gilt edge is now looked at askance, and wary holders are loath to put their names on the back of notes before selling them.

In local securities we have quotations as follows: Pan Handle sevens sold at 87; Valley 7 50's 99 bid; sevens 96 bid; incomes 58 asked. Bank stocks are well sustained and change hands privately at high quotations.

—The numerous recent bank robberies have attracted attention to the law governing the responsibility of banks that accept special deposits of bonds and other valuables and get no compensation for their trouble.

We presume that most of the banks of this city have large amounts of securities in their vaults belonging to their depositors. These deposits are taken because it seems ungracious to decline, although every bank officer would be glad to be rid of the trouble and danger of their custody.

In accepting such trusts depositors should be impressed with the fact that the banks accept no responsibility for their safe keeping. The decisions of the courts are ample, which throw the risk on the owner in such cases. The Vermont Supreme Court in 1865 (Wiley vs. First National Bank of Brattleboro) held that "the cashier of a national bank has no power to receive special deposits on behalf of the bank for the accommodation of depositors, or to bind the bank to any liability;" and this view was affirmed by Judge Allen in the Court of Appeals last March (First National Bank of Lyons vs. Ocean National Bank), who held that power in bank officers to bind a bank extends only to their ordinary duties; that the business of receiving special deposits cannot be undertaken without express authority by the Board of Directors, and a single transaction is beyond the delegated powers of an officer. Such a transaction is the act of a bank officer individually, and even if he should undertake its risk, the liability would extend only to himself. The depositor must show that his deposits were received by authority of the directors, or that the banker, not the depositor, is responsible for loss.

—We find the following correspondence in the New York *Journal of Commerce*, and as we have frequently mentally asked the same question, we give below the letter and the reply of the *Journal*:

Can you tell me why Uncle Sam goes to the expense and trouble of having notices printed and sent over the country apprising individuals that there is a letter detained in Washington to their address, which will be forwarded upon return of the notice accompanied with a three-cent postage stamp? Why not forward the letter at once instead of the notice and demand the postage upon it? It seems to me like a petty mode of robbery; if practiced by an individual he would be frowned down and shunned by honest men. Is there any good reason why I should pay six cents for a letter that should be delivered to me for three cents? Please enlighten an old subscriber who will only trouble you when in pursuit of gratuitous information. M.

Reply.—Our correspondent does not begin at the beginning. A correspondent at Smithtown, which is near to this city, addresses him a letter, and by mistake (his eyes being old and the sight poor) puts upon it a two-cent stamp instead of one costing three cents. He would suppose that next to throwing the letter into the fire, or selling it for old paper, the most economical way of clearing himself of the responsibility of such a possession would be for Uncle Sam to mark it "letter" paid one cent and send it to its destination here. Our friend M. would gladly pay the cent upon delivery, and no one would lose by the operation. But red-tape orders otherwise. The postmaster at Smithtown enters the description of the letter in his books; he writes this out and sends it with the letter right by New York. Then the letter is timed further, to Washington. A clerk there take an account of it, and then writes this account in duplicate and incloses it with a printed circular, in a printed envelope, addressed to M. here at New York. If M. then puts a three-cent stamp in a letter, and incloses it in an envelope on which is another three-cent stamp, and sends it to Washington, he will have that letter (paid one cent short!) returned to him. It has cost him six cents, a sheet of paper and an envelope to obtain it. It has cost the Government three mailings, three transportations, clerk hire for recording it twice and printing a circular and a printed envelope. The cost of this operation to both parties is about sixteen cents. For every such letter, and all for fear that M. will not pay one cent if the letter is sent directly to him! And this is the Conkling method of the most spacious nation on the globe!!

OFFICE OF TRASK & STONE,
BANKERS AND BROKERS, 72 BROADWAY STREET,
NEW YORK, February 17, 1876.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

The general tone of the market during most of the morning was bearish, though not the impression was made upon prices, with the exception of Western Union, which, under free sales, sold down to 73½.

Subsequently a sharp rally occurred in Western Union, to which the general market quickly responded, especially the so-called Granger stocks. In regard to Western Union, Gould, who is credited with having sold a large amount of short stock at good figures, it seems to hold the whip hand, having by means of its Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Company the opportunity of compelling a ruinous opposition, or he would of course disastrously affect the stock of the Western Union Telegraph Company. It is a matter of surprise that Lake Shore is held so firmly, and it seems difficult to account for its exceptional strength.

Pacific Mail, under a renewed attack by Mr. Gould, was depressed this morning, but recovered slightly toward the close.

The contest between the leading bears and bulls is becoming unusually exciting, and we look for a very active market next week, though for the moment the bears have the best of the fight. The public are keeping out of the fear concerning our best stocks, and will buy them at each decline.

Money remains easy at four per cent. on call.

Yours truly,
TRASK & STONE.

—The following table shows the prices of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day, furnished by the Fifth National Bank, No. 16 Sixth street:

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Gold	113½	113½	113¼	113½	113¾
U. S. 6's-1881, coup	123½	123½	...	...	123
5-20's, 1865	120	120	...	...	118
5-20's, 1865, new	120	120	...	...	120
5-20's, 1867, registered	122¾	122¾	...	...	122¾
5-20's, 1867	122¾	122¾	...	...	122¾
5-20's, 1868	123½	123½	...	...	123½
10-40's	118½	118¾	...	...	118¾
10-40's, coupons	118¾	118¾	...	...	118¾
Currency 6's	126½	126¾	...	...	126½
New 5 per cents	109¾	109¾	...	...	109¾
Western Union Tel	73½	73¾	74	74¼	73¾
Quicksilver	13½	13½	...	...	13½
Pacific Mail	33¾	33¾	33¾	34	34¾
Panama	...	...	...	...	131
Adams Express	109	...	...	...	112
Wells-Fargo Express	87½	...	...	...	...
American Express	64½	...	...	...	64½
United States Exp's	74½	...	...	...	75½
New York Central	115¾	116¼	116¼	116¼	116¼
Erie	17¾	...	...	18¾	18¾
Michigan Central	...	...	...	96	96
Michigan Southern	66½	66¾	66¾	66¾	66½
Illinois Central	100¾	...	...	100	100¾
Cleveland & Pitts	...	...	...	90½	...
Chicago & Northwest	44	44¼	44¼	44½	44¾
Do. preferred	66¾	66¾	67	...	...
Rock Island	110¾	111¼	111¼	111	111
St. Paul common	45¾	45¾	46	46	46
Do. preferred	79½	80	80½	81	80½
Fort Wayne	...	...	...	102	...
Ohio and Mississippi	...	...	...	22½	23¼
Harlem	145	...	...	...	144
Hannibal and St. Jos	19	...	...	19½	19¾
Iron Mountain	...	...	...	...	17¾
C., C., I. & L	...	...	...	...	34¾
Missouri Pacific	...	...	...	12¾	...
South Carolinas, 6's	35	35	...	...	35
South Carolinas, J.'s	...	33¾	...	...	...
Missouri 6's	...	102½	...	...	102¾
St. Paul Cons. tens	110½	...	...	...	110¾

—The following is the report of the prices of leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board, as received by wire at noon to-day:

Stocks.	Bid.	Asked.	Sales.
Pennsylvania Central	....	....	50¾
Reading	....	....	38
United Co.'s of N. J	....	....	102½
Oil Creek	140	142	141
Lehigh Valley	....	....	63
Allegheny Valley	99	100	....
Central Transportation	....	....	40¾
Empire Transportation	52¾	....	....
P., C. & St. L., m. b.	....	....	87

[By Associated Press.]
Gold Closed at 113¾.

MONEY.

NEW YORK, February 18.—Money 3@4 per cent. Prime mercantile paper 4½@6 per cent. Customs receipts $252,000. The Assistant Treasurer disbursed $1,057,000. Clearings $34,000,000. Sterling 486@490.

GOLD.

Gold opened at 113¾, advanced to 113¾, declined to 113¾ and closed at 113¾. Carrying rates 1 to 2 per cent. The decline in the afternoon was based on rumors that about $1,000,000 gold bought for shipment had been resold and would not go to-morrow.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Government bonds a fraction weaker, in sympathy with gold. Railroad bonds firm and higher for Wisconsin roads. State securities steady, except Tennessees, which are better. Stocks opened firm and higher, the advance ranging from ¼ to 1¾ per cent. At second call prices showed a reaction of from ¼ to ¾ per cent from the highest point. During the last hour there was a still further decline, but at the close there was an improvement, the market closing strong with New York Central, Pacific Mail, Rock Island, Western Union and Northwestern ¼ to ¾ per cent. higher than at the opening. Transactions 163,000 shares, of which 14,000 were Pacific Mail, 77,000 Western Union, 9,000 Northwestern, 18,000 St. Paul, 15,000 Erie, 15,000 Lake Shore and 9,000 Ohio and Mississippi. The following were the closing quotations:

STOCKS.

W. U. Telegraph	74	Toledo & Wabash	5¼
Pacific Mail	34¾	Do. preferred	9½
Adams Express	109	Chicago & Alton	102
Wells-Fargo Ex	88	Do. preferred	118
American Ex	64½	Fort Wayne	102
U. S. Express	75½	Pittsburgh	92
New York Central	116	Do. preferred	...
Erie	17¾	Ohio & Mississippi	23½
Do. preferred	32	Indiana Central	8¾
Harlem	142	Burling'n & Qu'cy	120
Do. preferred	134	Hannibal & St. Joe	20
Mich. Central	96½	Delaware & Lack	119¾
Lake Shore	67	Atlantic & P. Tel	18
Clev. & Pitts	90½	Union Pacific stock	66¼
Illinois Central	100	Central Pac. bonds	103½
Northwestern	44¾	Union Pac. bonds	105½
Do. preferred	66¾	Do. land grants	102½
N. J. Central	107½	Mariposa	8¾
Rock Island	111¾	Do. preferred	18¾
St. Paul	45¾	Panama	131
Do. preferred	80		

GOVERNMENTS.

U. S. coupons, 1881 .... 123¼ | New 5's 118¾
5-20's, 1865 .... 118 | 10-40's registered 117¾
5-20's, 1865, new .... 119¾ | 10-40's, coupons 120
5-20's, 1867 .... 122¾ | Currency 6's 126½
5-20's, 1868 .... 123½

STATE BONDS.

Tennessee, old .... 48¾ | Virginia, old 38
Tennessee, new .... 43¼ | Missouri 6's 102¾
Virginia, new 37

LONDON, February 18, 5 P. M.—Consols for money and account 94¾. United States bonds-5-20's, 1865, old, 104½; 10-40's, 106¾; new 5's, 105¾. Railroad securities—New York Central 96; Erie 19½; do preferred 32.

PARIS, February 18.—Rentes 67 francs 85 centimes.

FRANKFORT, February 18.—United States bonds—New 5's 101¾.

BERLIN, February 18.—The specie in the Imperial Bank of Germany has increased 4,932,000 marks during the week ending yesterday.

NEW ORLEANS, February 18.—Sight ½ premium. Sterling—Bank 553¼@554. Sight ¼ premium.

GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL,
FRIDAY, February 18, 1876.

As was expected the improvement in the weather has caused other improvements, particularly in the produce line. A material increase in sales was the result. If the country roads would only continue in a passable condition a revival of trade would be the result. In regard to values we have no particular change to note. Dealers are hopeful for an active business in the near future. We hope they will not be disappointed, as we see no reason why they should be. Bacon—The firmness noted in our last continues. The advance we have before noted has fully been maintained; holders are well pleased with the situation.

The following are the receipts of the leading articles of produce since our last:

Flour, bbls	1,6 2	Cheese, boxes	100
Corn, bush	2,000	Wheat, bush	2,585
Barley, bush	3,731	Oats, bush	5,392
Butter, pkgs	65	Bacon, pcs	1,250
Bacon, lcs	38	Potatoes, bush	1,250
Hay, bales	474		

The quotations given in the following reports are prices realized in wholesale transactions, unless otherwise specified. On small sales dealers will charge an advance. Prices of grain, unless stated to the contrary, are free in elevator.

Grain, Flour and Feed.

GRAIN—The market since our last has exhibited no visible change as relates to prices or demand. Choice descriptions of wheat sell readily at current rates. Millers complain that at present prices wheat is relatively higher than flour. The following are the rates on the street: Wheat—Michigan white $1 40@1 45; Pennsylvania and Ohio red winter $1 36@1 38, being scarce and in demand. Northwestern red $1 38@1 40; low grades are dull and neglected at $1 16@1 22; rejected do at $1 10, no quality. Corn is quiet, with light receipts at former prices. We quote ear shelled at 51@53c for good yellow; new at 48@50c for mixed; 50@52c for choice yellow; old shelled in elevator is held at 62@65c. Oats were steady at about former quotations. We quote mixed Pennsylvania and Ohio at 40@41c; white do at 42@44c; Western white 42@43c. Barley—Not much doing; Canada held at $1 30@1 35 ₱ bush; choice spring at $1 15@1 21; common to prime at $1 06@1 14; feed; grades nominal at 80@$1 00. Rye quiet with a sale at 82c, held at 80@82c ₱ bu-hel. Jobbing sales were made at the usual advance.

FLOUR—As we have before noted, there was a continued good demand for family use, particularly of favorite brands. The fact is the best grades of flour are decidedly the cheapest in proportion to the value of wheat. The most economical way of clearing himself of the responsibility of such a possession would be for Uncle Sam to mark it "letter" paid one cent and send it to its destination here. Our friend M. would gladly pay the cent upon delivery, and no one would lose by the operation. But red-tape orders otherwise. The postmaster at Smithtown enters the description of the letter in his books; he writes this out and sends it with the letter right by New York. Then the letter is timed further, to Washington. A clerk there take an account of it, and then writes this account in duplicate and incloses it with a printed circular, in a printed envelope, addressed to M. here at New York. If M. then puts a three-cent stamp in a letter, and incloses it in an envelope on which is another three-cent stamp, and sends it to Washington, he will have that letter (paid one cent short!) returned to him. It has cost him six cents, a sheet of paper and an envelope to obtain it. It has cost the Government three mailings, three transportations, clerk hire for recording it twice and printing a circular and a printed envelope. The cost of this operation to both parties is about sixteen cents. For every such letter, and all for fear that M. will not pay one cent if the letter is sent directly to him! And this is the Conkling method of the most spacious nation on the globe!!

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U. S. Express	75½	Pittsburgh	92
New York Central	116	Do. preferred	...
Erie	17¾	Ohio & Mississippi	23½
Do. preferred	32	Indiana Central	8¾
Harlem	142	Burling'n & Qu'cy	120
Do. preferred	134	Hannibal & St. Joe	20
Mich. Central	96½	Delaware & Lack	119¾
Lake Shore	67	Atlantic & P. Tel	18
Clev. & Pitts	90½	Union Pacific stock	66¼
Illinois Central	100	Central Pac. bonds	103½
Northwestern	44¾	Union Pac. bonds	105½
Do. preferred	66¾	Do. land grants	102½
N. J. Central	107½	Mariposa	8¾
Rock Island	111¾	Do. preferred	18¾
St. Paul	45¾	Panama	131
Do. preferred	80		

Provisions.

The firmness we noted in our last has been maintained, holders being well pleased with the outlook. The current rates are as follows:

Hams, Extra Sugar Cured, ₱ lb	14½	Lard, Prime Leaf in ½ bbls., ₱ lb	14
Shoulders, Extra Sugar Cured, ₱ lb	10½	Lard, Prime Leaf in buckets, ₱ lb	14½
Breakfast Bacon, Extra Sugar Cured, ₱ lb	14½	Lard, Refined in 3 lb caddies, ₱ lb	16½
Dried Beef, Extra Sugar Cured, ₱ lb	15	Lard, Refined in 5 lb caddies, ₱ lb	16½
Beef Tongues, Extra Sugar Cured, ₱ lb	15	Lard, Refined in 3 lb pails, ₱ lb	17
Pickled Pigs Feet, ₱ bbl	6 50	Lard, Refined in 5 lb pails, ₱ lb	16½
Bacon Shoulders, ₱ lb	9½	Lard, Refined in 10 lb pails, ₱ lb	16½
Bacon, Short Rib sides, ₱ lb	13	Ham Sausage, ₱ gal	9
Bacon, Clear Rib Sides, ₱ lb	12½	Lard Oil, Extra Winter Strained, ₱ gal	1 68
Mess Pork, ₱ bbl	22 50	Lard Oil, Winter Strained, ₱ gal	67
Family Mess Pork, about 25 pieces in bbl, ₱ bbl	22 50	Carbon Oil, Standard White, ₱ gal	13
Short Cut Mess Pork, about 50 pieces in bbl, ₱ bbl	22 50	Cheese, Prime New York Goshen, ₱ lb	14
Lard, Prime Leaf in tierces, ₱ lb	13½	Pigs' Feet, kegs	$2 00
		Pigs' Feet, ½ bbls	4 15
		Pigs' Feet, 1 bbl	9 10

Groceries.

The market could not be called an active one, but still for certain kinds there was a slight improvement without any change in values. The rates are as follows:

Green Coffees.	₱ lb.	*Sugars.*	₱ lb.
Fancy Rio	24	Standard A	10¾
Choice Rio	23	Standard B	10¼
Prime Rio	22	Do. extra C	10
Good Rio	21	Extra C—yel	9¾@9¾
Ordinary Rio	20	C—yel	9¼@9¾
Java	32	Franklin B	9¾
Roasted Coffees.		Cut Loaf	12
Rio, in papers	26	Crushed	12
20 grades do. 24	22@	Powdered	11¾
Rio, bulk	23¾@25	Granulated	11
Java, in papers	34	Good fair N. O	8
Java, in bulk	33¾	Fully do	8¾
Do	32	Prime do	9¾
Young Hyson	45@81	Choice fair do	9
Gunpowder	1 10	White clarified	10
Imperial	50@	Yellow clarified	9
Japan	40@	*Molasses.*	₱ gall.
Oolong	35@	Str'y ch. N. O	50@55
Fancy	1 00	Prime	55@60
Souchong	35@	Good	50c
Starch.	₱ lb	*Syrups.*	
Pearl	4½@4¾c	Ex. white drips	70c
Kings	4½ c	Sugar drips	55@60c
Corn	10¼c	Lower grades	45@50c
Rice.		*Spices.*	
Choice Carlin	7¼@8 c	Cloves	55 c
Patna	7 c	Alspice	17 c
Rangoon	6 c	Cassia	33@35 c
Carolina	7¼@7¾ c	Pepper	19@20 c
Soda.		*Soaps.*	
Bi-carb, in kegs	5 c	Irish soap, ₱ box	$4 25
Bi-carb, in 10-lb pkgs	5¼ c	S. S. Star, ₱ box	5 75
Bi-carb, in 5 papers	7 c	Babbitt's best, ₱ box	6 75
Sal Soda	2½ c	St. Patrick do	6 75
Star, full weight	17¼ c	Do. N. Y. City, ₱ box	3 50
Stearine	13½ c	German mottled do	7¼ c
Mould	21@22 c		

TOBACCO—The current rates are as follows:

Manufactured—	Six Twist	43@50c
Spun roll	Smoking—Gran.	50c
Black Navy	mulated	50@75c
Black Tens	*Leaf Tobacco—*	
Natural Navy	Western leaf—	
Louisville Cav	wrappers	15@20c
Virginia Navy	West'n leaf—lugs	9@12c
Virginia Cav	Ohio seed wrap	12@22c
Virginia Cav	Ohio seed filler	9@12c
Double Thick	Conn. (choice)	
Flounders	wrapper	60@70c
Bright pounds	Conn. filler	12@15c
Black Quarters	Havana wrap	$4 25@5 00
Rough & Ready	Havana fillers	95c@$1 25
Fine Cut plugs	*Cigars—*	
Fine Cut	Penn's, seed	@15c
Cut and Dry	Connecticut	25@ 30
Scotch Snuff	Seed & Havana	30@ 35
Black Snuff	Havana	60@150

Petroleum.

February 18.—Near the close of yesterday's market and after we received our last dispatch from the oil regions, a persistent and somewhat successful effort was made to break it by some of the larger dealers and speculators, principally from Oil City. About 50,000 barrels United were thrown out for sale in large blocks. Prices broke under the lead from 5@7c per barrel, and the late quotations of Thursday's close were 91@ 92½ for Un ted and Union and $1 90 for Conduit. From the effect of this concerted onslaught the market opened this morning quite weak at $1 9 @ 1 91½ for Conduit, Union and United. During the morning it rallied to $1 93½ bid. These figures were maintained until early in the afternoon when, under the hammering by the bears to follow up their advantages gained yesterday, prices receded to $1 91¼ bid and $1 92¼ asked, at which figures it continued dull and unchanged to the close. Sales, 8 carloads.

REFINED—Dull; prices weak and unsatisfactory. We quote nominally on cars 10½c.

NEW YORK—Demand wholly better. Sales 2,500 barrels for export at 13½c.

Philadelphia—Market quiet; standard white 13½c.

Baltimore—Dull at 13½c.

(By Western Union Telegraph.)

OIL CITY, February 18.—The *Derrick* says: United opened at $1 98¾, at which only a moderate business was done, and before noon sales were made at $1 93¾, but from one until five o'clock the feeling was somewhat stronger and prices advanced to $1 95@1 96. At the meeting held in the Exchange to-day, while it was in session, a depreciation of 2¾ @3c occurred, caused by large blocks having been thrown on the market at Parkers. The offerings were large and the feeling weak, sales being made during the forenoon at $1 91¾@1 92¼. The final sale was 25,000 barrels United at $1 92¼, for which the buyers formed a pool. Shipments 85,660 barrels. The runs and shipments were 139,000 barrels.

TITUSVILLE, February 18.—The *Courier* says: The decline in the price of oil was more marked than the rise the previous day and sellers completely broke down. United sold at $1 93¾ asked and declined, with a few sales at $1 93¾, when it advanced to $1 90¾. From this latter figure it steadily declined until the last close was freely offered at $1 88¾. There were a few sales of Union and Conduit at the same figures as United. Transactions in the outside lines were difficult to obtain, but the closing quotations were given at $1 80@1 85¢. Upper Pool closed at $2 00@2 02½ and shipment at $2 0@2 02½, and very dull. Total sales 30,000 barrels.

NEW YORK, February 18, closing 17.—There are sellers at a slight decline, but exchanges still hold off, and the market may be regarded in about a nominal position. Sales 1,040 barrels refined at 13¾c; crude in bulk 13¼@13½c; in shipping order; refined 13¾; cases 18½c. At Baltimore refined is quoted at 13¾c; at Philadelphia 13¾c. Naptha 9¼@10c.

PHILADELPHIA, February 18.—Market quiet but steadier with fair inquiry. Sales 1,000 barrels; crude 17½c; no inquiry for futures.

PETROLIA, February 18.—Market very weak at $1 87½ bid for United, and Union firmed up and sales were made $1 91½, and no inquiry this morning; quotations $2 @2 02½ and the market was steady at $1 90 bid; $1 93½ asked for United.

TITUSVILLE, February 18.—Market quiet and nominal at $1 @; Upper road oil not in demand.

OIL CITY, February 18.—Market steady for United at well-; $1 90½ bid; $1 91¼ asked. In the transactions Parkers' and Shamburg are equally divided; immediate shipment $2 07½ bid.

ROUSEVILLE, February 18.—No business whatever; can not quote.

TIDIOUTE, February 18.—Market dull and lower; sales yesterday at $2 12½.

[By Associated Press.]

PHILADELPHIA, February 18.—Petroleum nominal; crude in barrels 10½c; refined 13¾@ 13¾c.

BALTIMORE, February 18.—Petroleum dull and weak; crude 7½@8c; refined 14c.

LONDON, February 18.—Refined petroleum, del-; spirits de 8¾@9d.

ANTWERP, February 18.—Refined petroleum 30 francs.

CLEVELAND, February 18.—Petroleum quiet and much-used; standard white, 110 degrees test, 19½c; prime water State test, 11½c; Michigan State test 13¾c, in car lots, cash.

General Merchandise.

LUMBER.

The market continues an abundant supply. Prices for some time past have ruled low. The present rates are as follows:

Flooring, No. 1 per M	$25 0
Flooring, No. 2	21 0
Best No. 1 5-inch shingles	6 0
Molded weatherboard per M	25 0
Common surfaced boards	20 0
Barn boards	15 0
Sheeting boards	15 0
Moldings ½c per inch square per running foot.	
Inside shutters, inch thick, 20c per square foot.	
Window frames and sash from $2 50 to $3 50 per window.	
Four panned doors from $2 50 to $3 50 each.	

WINDOW GLASS.

The following is a new list that has just been issued by the manufacturers. It will be observed the rates are materially lower than the old one, and ought to increase our glass trade largely. Putty and whiting also been reduced accordingly. We now quote at 40c and 10c off Pittsburgh list.

PER BOX OF FIFTY FEET.—QUALITY STRENGTH.

2d Quality.	1st Quality.	Dbl. str'th.
6 by 8 to 7 by 9	$ 75	$ 2 75
7 by 10 to 8 by 10	3 75	3 75
8 by 11 to 10 by 12	4 00	4 50
10 by 13 to 11 by 14	4 50	5 00
11 by 16 to 12 by 17	4 75	5 25
10 by 18 to 11 by 20		5 50
15 by 20 to 18 by 22		6 00
15 by 24 to 18 by 26		10 50
15 by 26 to 24 by 30		7 00
15 by 30 to 24 by 36		11 25
15 by 36 to 26 by 44		14 00
15 by 44 to 26 by 50		16 00
26 by 52 to 30 by 54		17 00
30 by 56 to 34 by 56		18 00
30 by 58 to 34 by 60		20 00
36 by 60 to 40 by 60		22 50

All sizes over 60 inches in length, and not making 84 united inches, will be charged in 84 united inches bracket.

COMMERCE AND RUSH—The demand was fair. Prices are as follows:

MANILLA ROPE.	Per pound.
¼ inch diameter and upward	14½c
⅜ inch diameter and upward	15½c
½ and 5-8 inch diameter	15½c
Tarred rope and lath yarn	14½c
Hay, slaves' and jute rope	13½c

OIL WELL DRILLING CABLES.

Hawser laid	14½c
Hawser laid bolt rope yarns	16½c
Sand pump rope	14½c

SISAL ROPE.

¼ inch diamater and upward	13½c
⅜ and 7-16 inch diameter	13½c
½ and 5-16 inch diameter	13½c
Hay, spoke and leather twine	12½c

NEW ZEALAND ROPE.

¼ inch diamete and upward	11½c
⅜ inch diameter	12½c
½ and 5-16 inch diameter	12½c
Hay twine	11½c
Tarred bath twine	11½c

CANNED GOODS.

The following are the current rates:

2 lb Bartlett pears	$3 00	2 lb blackberries	$2 50
2 lb common pears	2 00	2 lb strawberries	2 50
2 lb pine apple	2 00	2 lb white cherries	2 75
2 lb quinces	3 00	2 lb red cherries	2 00
2 lb raspberries	2 50	2 lb damsons	2 00
2 lb strawberries	2 00	2 lb green gages	3 00
2 lb Lima beans	2 00	2 lb egg plums	3 00
2 lb string beans	2 00	2 lb green gages

CITY MATTERS.

For eighty-five cents per month the DAILY COMMERCIAL will be mailed to travelers or to subscribers who are temporarily absent from Pittsburgh. The address of the paper will be changed as often as is desired.

Local Observations.

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER, U. S. SIG. SERV., Room 23, First National Bank, PITTSBURGH, PA., February 18, 1876.

Time.	Bar.	Th'r.	Hum	Wind. Dir.	Force.	Weath.
7 A. M.	30 244	27	65	W.	Fresh.	Cloudy
2 P. M.	30 226	37	73	N. W.	Fresh.	Clear.
9 P. M.	30 224	38	89	S. W.	Fresh.	Clear.

Mean barometer....30 .228 Highest thermom....39
Mean thermon.... 35 Lowest thermom....25

Once Again.

Once again Gildenfenney & Co., 69 Fifth avenue, supply a bundle of choice literature, containing all the latest magazines, pictorial, story and other papers. Their counters are well covered with good reading matter, and their shelves contain all the freshest and best books. Their stock of notions, pocketbooks, gold pens, stationery, albums, etc., embraces all grades of those articles, so that all tastes can be suited, and at the most reasonable rates.

Smallpox in Allegheny.

SIX new cases of smallpox and varioloid were reported yesterday by the Allegheny Health Officer. The new cases were principally among children in the First ward, and were generally of the mildest form. The whole number of cases reported in the city by the Board of Health is now seventeen, exclusive of one case which proved fatal on Saturday last. These are distributed in the First, Third, Seventh and Eleventh wards of the city.

The Reserve News Letter.

Colonel Chill Hazzard, of Monongahela City, has issued the third number of the *Pennsylvania Reserve News Letter*, a paper devoted to the interests of the members of the Pennsylvania Reserves. This spicy and entertaining little paper should receive substantial recognition at the hands of every member of that gallant organization. Its subscription price is only one dollar, and it is worth double that amount. The next number, which will be issued the last week in this month, will contain a vivid sketch of the battle of Drainsville, the first in which the Reserves were engaged, together with much other interesting matter.

Perjury and Conspiracy.

Charles M. Grogan and Terrance Manley, charged with perjury, and the same defendants with John Dolan, charged with conspiracy to indict, before Alderman McMasters, have been committed to jail, in default of $1,000 bail each, for trial at the March term of the Criminal Court. They are the parties who a short time ago prosecuted Christopher Keisling, of Patton township, and several members of his family, for malicious and forcible entry, the charge alleging that they broke into a building and broke the furniture. At the trial of this case the evidence brought out by the defense satisfied the jury that the charges were untrue, and they acquitted the defendants and directed the prosecutors to pay the costs. Now Mr. Keisling seeks legal redress in the manner stated.

Suit for the Recovery of a Child.

Judge Collier, of Common Pleas No. 1, granted a writ of *habeas corpus*, on the application of Joseph Johnson, requiring Catharine Malone to produce Elizabeth Henry in court this morning and show by authority she holds her. Elizabeth is ten years of age, and is the only daughter of Anna Henry, a sister of Mr. Johnson, now deceased. The petition sets forth that the father of the child is a confirmed inebriate and incapable of taking proper care of her; that the petitioner is the natural uncle of the child, and nearer of kin than any of the relatives now living in America, with the exception of the mother, that he is a married man, capable and willing to take care of, provide for and educate the child. Catharine Malone, it is represented, is of no kin to the little girl, and has no claim upon her. The case will be heard to-day at 11 A. M.

Baggage Smashing.

It was noticed in yesterday's paper that the New York Legislature had passed a law making baggage smashing a misdemeanor, punishable by twenty dollars fine and six months' imprisonment. It may not be generally known that there is such a law now in force in this State. In Purdon's Digest, volume first, page 359, section 225, it is enacted that:

"Any baggage master, express agent, stage driver, hackman or other person, whose duty it is to handle, remove or take care of the baggage of passengers, who shall wilfully or recklessly destroy any trunk, valise, box, package or parcel, while loading, transporting, unloading, delivering or storing the same, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction thereof shall be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars."

Baggage masters should clip this and paste it inside their hats.

Alleged Attempted Assassination.

A few nights ago some one sent a pistol ball through a window of the residence of Mr. John Ward, on Penn avenue, Wilkinsburg, which struck a chair within six inches of Mrs. Ward's head. The ball passed through the window glass, through a blind, struck the back of the chair and dropped to the floor. It appears that some time ago a party named Enoch Jones was about to remove to Nova Scotia, and owing money to Mr. Ward, that gentleman attached some of his property. It further appears that Jones had been making threats against Mr. Ward, and it being suspected that he is the man who fired the shot, an information made by Mr. Ward, before 'Squire Walker, charging him with surety of the peace. A hearing was had, Mr. C. C. Taylor appearing for Mr. Ward, when the defendant was required to give bail in the sum of $500 for his appearance at court.

Benevolence.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

We have read the insinuation of your correspondent W. in your issue of February 18th with indignation. That he should presume to say what is utterly false with regard to systematic charity in Philadelphia, is bad enough; but that he should *dare* insinuate that the work of charity has not been systematically and judiciously, as well as faithfully, done in this city for the last thirteen years shows conclusively that the habit of *Lord Bountiful* has been recently donned by him, or that the persons engaged in the work, with whom he came in contact, did not faithfully perform the labor they had assumed. The members of the Pittsburgh Association for the Relief of the Poor were pledged to visit, personally, and investigate the case of each applicant, to not only give relief, if necessary, but to incite and encourage habits of industry, economy, cleanliness, temperance and self-dependence—aiming not only to alleviate suffering, but to reform and elevate character. Both its officers and managers gave Christian consolation and advice to the sick; often reading the Bible and praying by their bed-side. Many a poor child was led by them into the Sabbath-schools of the churches, and many a poor woman decently clad, that she might go to worship in the house of God, where she had not been for years. Many a poor man and woman, in this city, will come forward and testify to the fact, that, when, through no fault of their own, the wolf stood at the door, and dessair usurped all their hearts, the Pittsburgh Association came to their aid, relieving their wants, procuring them work, and placing them above the necessity of aid, giving them, not food of a coarser quality than might be procured by labor," (we quote from the rules of distribution, of the new Association for the improvement (?) of the poor), but such as would give the nutriment and sustenance famishing nature required.

W. says, "the deserving did not make known their wants." At least one hundred families, in this city, who once held a position on an equal footing with W., have been, and are still, aided by the managers of the old Relief Association. How these cases became known, will probably never be told. Thousands of worthy, respectable, but unfortunate people, gladly and voluntarily sought the Association for assistance.

That the combined wisdom and sagacity of the Board, comprising some of the best minds in the city, both ladies and gentlemen, would not always prevent imposition, was readily admitted—the fact that the new organization is egregiously and ridiculously imposed upon, is well known. The work of the old association was voluntary—everything that could be was done to prevent mendicancy by the self-sacrificing managers. Every dollar placed in its treasury was spent for the alleviation of the sufferings of the poor. The system adopted by the new organization of paying visitors, has been tried in New York, and it has been found that at least one-fifth of the money donated for the poor is spent in disbursing it among them. The visitors now at work here, under the new organization, will receive over one thousand dollars, out of some five or six thousand, perhaps, that may be contributed by our citizens—as there are eleven of them, according to W.'s statement, the distribution, taking into consideration the large number of worthy poor needing aid, does not seem quite equal. It may be urged that they earn the thirty dollars a month which they receive. True, but are there not ladies enough of wealth and leisure in this city to carry on this work among the poor and suffering, without being compelled to hire these visitors, thus unequally distributing the funds of the benevolent?

We have never been a member of the old association, but have closely observed its workings and results from its beginning. Preferring to use it, as a channel for our own charities, and, knowing that it had the fullest confidence of the public, we cannot submit to have its noble record ignored, nor can we sanction the present plan which W. so zealously advocates.

B.

THE residence of ex-Councilman Price, on Arch street, Allegheny, was ransacked by thieves Thursday afternoon, while the family were absent. The only articles carried away were a ring and breastpin.

THE REFORM SCHOOL

Managers on the Stand.

More About the Supplies, Discipline, etc.

Mr. Avery Recalled.

A New Cause Assigned for the Trouble.

IS IT A SECTARIAN SQUABBLE?

Mr. Avery Denies---Mr. Gill Affirms.

The Reform School investigation was resumed yesterday morning, at nine o'clock, Mr. Plummer in the chair. Messrs. Findley, Illingsley, Yerkes and Thornton were also present. The investigation was resumed as follows:

MR. YEAGER'S TESTIMONY.

Mr. C. Yeager, sworn—Have been a manager for fourteen years; am chairman of the Supply Committee; the Superintendent hands out his requisition every month and sends them to the committee and I authorize the filling of the requisition. Six or eight months ago a requisition was made out for a carpet; I did not think it was needed; it was ordered to run down items; get supplies from Arbuckles, and Dewhurst & Co., Lindsay & Co., and others; as to rye coffee as far as I know, it has been furnished until about two years ago; I don't know whether rye coffee is mixed with Rio coffee down there or not; two years ago Doctor Daly forbid the use of rye, and Rio is only used; meat is furnished by contract. The meat, I might say, is furnished fresh every morning; once there was a complaint among the women, and Mr. Ackley brought his meat to my store to examine; there was a regular pow-wow about this when I went down to the school.

As to the cost of feeding the boys, we were always poor, but think at one time it was about twenty-five cents per day per boy or girl; it is now about thirty-two cents; for salaries outside and inside there is is paid out about $15,000 or $16,000 per annum; the number of officers I can't just state; I am a frequent visitor at the school; I know of none of the cases of alleged cruelty; I was down there three, sometimes four times a week and am amazed to hear of these cruelty cases; most former inmates of the school often but they have never mentioned cruelty cases.

"The Reward Fund," which once existed, was taken away as a measure of economy; others thought boys should not be paid for proper behavior; the fund was abolished some two years since.

To Mr. Billingsley—I don't think the taking away of this fund operated against the discipline and influence of the school; don't remember of offering in the Class of Honor for months before being let out.

To Mr. Findley—Never held back provisions I thought necessary.

To Mr. Billingsley—The Board of Managers meet once every three months; the Instructions and Discipline Committee meet once a month; they receive reports from officers; often stay late, talking to the boys; I am on that committee; Mr. Avery did not report punishments to this committee; we never supposed any corporal punishment; punishment might be going on without our knowledge.

To Mr. Chand—Have been satisfied with everything that went on; this, however, is generally the case in such schools; I never received a letter to be a general "cleaning out."

To Mr. Yerkes—Don't know the exact quantity of meat furnished; have sometimes objected to the amounts of the bills, and have gone down to ask about it; have been in Eastern Houses of Refuge, and ours is better than the meat furnished in any of them.

The Chair—Well, it wouldn't be any too good then.

Witness—The difficulty, as has been said, is the monotony of cooking; our children, however, have been as well or better fed than in other institutions; I have at times expressed dissatisfaction with Miss McCoy, but only as to her fitness for housekeeper; never knew of her being cruel; sometimes would have happened without my being cognizant of it; I always thought the sanitary condition perhaps to epidemic there, I thought that at the same time typhoid fever was prevalent in Allegheny to an alarming extent; have often talked to Dr. Daly on the best kind of supplies; after the fever, purchased bales of new blankets, etc.; the children use tea now.

To Mr. Fetterman—Had the Board known of the meat and coffee, would have been at once stopped; I do not know who mainly caused the cessation of the badge money, or reward fund; myself opposed it for one, as a matter of economy.

To Mr. Gill—The Board did not know that the badge system was a substitute for the whip.

To Mr. Fetterman—Mr. Avery never complained of non-payment of the badge money.

Mr. Gill—It is on record that the Board stood twelve to three in favor of continuing the badge money. Why was it then stopped?

Witness—I do not know. The management was left entirely to Mr. Avery.

Mr. Gill—He was monarch of all he surveyed then.

Witness—Oh, no, not a monarch by any means. He was not called to a strict account for his expenditures; he was authorized